

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SSC-01 EB-12 INT-08 LAB-06 COME-00 TRSE-00

AGR-20 SIL-01 AID-05 PC-10 DRC-01 /160 W

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R 022051Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8218

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4215

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SWEL, HO

SUBJECT: GOH FORMATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. ON SEPTEMBER 30 CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ ORDERED THE FORMATION OF AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (CEYS) TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE NATIONAL PROBLEMS CREATED BY HURRICANE FIFI. REPRESENTED ON THE COUNCIL ARE THE GOVERNMENT, THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, THE NATIONAL AGRARIAN INSTITUTE, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE TRADE UNIONS AND THE CAMPESINOS.

2. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL IS AS FOLLOWS:

FOR THE GOVERNMENT:

(A) MANUEL ACOSTA BONILLA - MINISTER OF FINANCE

(B) ABRAHAM BENNATON - MINISTER OF ECONOMY

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(C) COL. JUAN ALBERTO MELGAR - MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT

(D) GERMAN APARICIO - ACTING MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS

AND PUBLIC WORKS

- (E) EDGARDO ESCOTO - MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES
- (F) GUATAMA FONSECA - MINISTER OF LABOR
- (G) MANLIO MARTINEZ - EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF PLANNING COUNCIL
- (H) ALBERTO GALEANO - PRESIDENT, CENTRAL BANK
- (I) GUILLERMO MEDINA SANTOS - PRESIDENT, NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK
- (J) JORGE ARTURO REINA - RECTOR, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
- (K) JOHNY MARINAKYS - PRESIDENT, NATIONAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION
- (L) MARIO PONCE - DIRECTOR, NATIONAL AGRARIAN INSTITUTE

3. FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR:

- (A) CAMILO RIVERA, PRESIDENT OF COHEP
- (B) EDMOND BOGRAN, INDUSTRIALIST
- (C) EMIN BARJUM, PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- (D) ARMANDO SAN MARTIN, PRESIDENT, BANCAHSA
- (E) JUAN AGURCIA, PRESIDENT OF ANDI
- (F) MANUEL VILLEDA
- (G) LUIS BOGRAN, INDUSTRIALIST
- (H) JAIME ROSENTHAL, INDUSTRIALIST
- (I) JORGE LARACH, BUSINESSMAN AND NEWSPAPER OWNER
- (J) ADOLFO FACUSSE, INDUSTRIALIST
- (K) FRANCISCO MARADIAGA

4. FOR THE UNIONS AND CAMPESINOS:

- (A) CELEO GONZALEZ - PRESIDENT OF FESITRANH
- (B) NAPOLEON ACEVEDO - PRESIDENT OF SUTRAFSCO (STANDARD FRUIT UNION)
- (C) GUSTAVO ZELAYA - PRESIDENT OF FECESITLIH
- (D) REYES RODRIGUEZ - PRESIDENT OF ANACH (CAMPESINOS)
- (E) PEDRO MENDOZA - PRESIDENT OF UNC (CAMPESINOS)
- (F) EFRAIN DIAZ GALEAS - (COOPERATIVES)

5. COMMENT: THE DECISION TO SET UP THE COUNCIL WAS PROBABLY TAKEN IN AN ATTEMPT TO MUTE CRITICISM FROM VARIOUS SECTORS THAT THEY ARE NOT BEING CONSULTED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON RELIEF
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AND REHABILITATION EFFORTS. THE GOH PROBABLY HOPES THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, WHO ARE ALL PRESTIGIOUS LEADERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE GROUPS, WILL BE ABLE TO FORMULATE UNITED POSITIONS OF SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT POLICIES. GIVEN THE CONTRASTING PHILOSOPHIES OF VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS IN THE COUNCIL THIS WILL NOT BE AN EASILY ACHIEVED OBJECTIVE.

6. LOPEZ PROBABLY ALSO WANTS TO COUNTER OBJECTIONS THAT HE PERSONALLY AND THE GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL ARE NOT AS ACTIVE AS THEY SHOULD BE IN CONFRONTING THIS DISASTER SITUATION.

LOPEZ HAS ONLY MADE ONE TELEVISION ADDRESS TO THE NATION AND HAS NOT BEEN IN THE "PUBLIC EYE" DURING THE RELIEF EFFORTS. HOWEVER, THIS IS PART OF HIS STYLE OF GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN ANY DEVIATION FROM HIS PERFORMANCE IN PAST EMERGENCIES. BASICALLY HE IS ALLOWING COLONEL JOSE DE LA CRUZ HERNANDEZ, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES AND PRESIDENT OF COPEN, TO BE THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RELIEF ACTIVITIES. THERE IS NO QUESTION, HOWEVER, THAT LOPEZ IS AWARE OF GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS AND IS APPROVING OR MAKING THE MAJOR DECISIONS. HIS FUTURE REPUTATION WILL REST TO A LARGE EXTENT ON THE ABILITY OF THE GOH TO REACT INTELLIGENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO THE MASSIVE PROBLEMS OF RELIEF, REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION FACING THE COUNTRY.
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